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Omaha, Nebraska 68115

A JOURNAL OF POETRY AND OPINION

editor Philip Boatright

15 June 68

associate Miss Jean Shannon

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Hal,

It is, as Rimbaud said (though he referred to other ills in another century) surely "the time of the assassins..." For us, Jean and I, the loss is evidenced by the awful silence now: we stood in the pouring rain just a few short weeks ago to hear a man (who also stood, of course, in the rain with us) speak of new ideas, new (and cleaner, we believe) things to come. And a day or two later we were there when he thanked Nebraskans for giving him victory. He was even gracious enough to autograph a copy of his remarkable book for Jean--though an aide tried to shield him from such an enthusiastic admirer.

There is no voice now, no grace. And the silence is ugly.

You mention sending some poems--fine, we'll be glad to have a look at them and tell you what we think. We both have, I dare say, some experience in reading work by both really and supposedly disturbed minds. Even so, any response is largely subjective...but we'd be genuinely interested in reading what you have, so send it along whenever you like.

Books. Yes, there were three that I gave you to pass on to Garrison's office--but one (du Berrier's Labor's International Network) was returned (received here 13 April). Only the two Courtney books I mentioned to you last time are left; they haven't been returned yet, were not with the stuff from Lynn Loisel that came back in April. A small matter, Hal, and I know the Garrison office is busy. Still, the Courtney books are part of a time in my life I still haven't explained (to myself) nearly well enough yet. I'd like to have them, when the investigation is finished with them, for whatever small use they may be to me sometime.

You keep thanking me for my help...and I appreciate your courtesy but think I have actually helped you little, if at all. So, again I say that if there is ever anything you think I might be able to help with--don't hesitate to get in touch. Your letters sometimes sound like you are down to your very last ounce of strength...I (respectfully) ask you to take best care possible of yourself.

I have news, too, of another kind--and I'd like to share it with you: I was married last month; 'Miss Jean Shannon' (my associate on STEPPENWOLF) is now Mrs. Philip Boatright. Should your travels bring you to Omaha again, on whatever business, we do hope you can find time to stop and have dinner and a bit of conversation with us. Telephone, by the way, is 345-1469. Anytime.

--Warmest regards,

Philip Boatright